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NEWSLETTER OF THE LONDON CHAPTER,
ONTARIO ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY
c/o London Museum of Archaeology
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LONDON CHAPTER OAS

February & March 2004 04-2 & 04-3

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We hope everyone is enjoying the "warm" summer weather because Fall is right around the corner!! **Speaker Nights** resume Thursday, September 9th. The speaker will be Dr. Lisa Hodgetts, newly of the University of Western Ontario. Her talk is entitled ***Land and Sea: Prehistoric Hunters and their Prey in Arctic Norway***.

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The meeting will be held at 8 pm at the London Museum of Archaeology, 1600 Attawandaron Road, near the corner of Wonderland & Fanshawe Park Road, in the northwest part of the city.

Chapter Executive

ANNUAL RATES

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President
Nancy Van Sas (473-1360)
1600 Attawandaron Rd, London N6G 3M6
nvansas@uwo.ca

Vice-President
Paul O'Neal (472-8100)
1615 North Routledge Park, Unit 5,
London, N6H 5L6
mayerheritage@bellnet.ca

Editors
Christopher Ellis (858-9852)
cjellis@uwo.ca
Christine Dodd (434-8853)
dpoulton@webgate.net

Treasurer
Jim Keron (285-2379)
R.R. #@ Thamesford N0M 2M0
Jkeron@alumni.uwaterloo.ca

Secretary
Lorelyn Giese (495-9695)
19 Saunby, London N6G 1B6

Directors
D'arcy Fallon
32 Pleasant Ave., Delaware, ON N0L 1E0
Steve Timmermans (519-875-1072)
Stimmermans@bsc-eoc.org

THE HILLERMAN SITE (AjGv-51)
A SMALL POINT WARM SEASON, INTERIOR CAMP
MISSISSAUGA, ONTARIO

by Jacqueline Fisher

INTRODUCTION

Fisher Archaeological Consulting (FAC) was retained in fall of 2000 to undertake the Stage 2 Assessment of a small undeveloped section of land in Mississauga, just south of the Queen Elizabeth Highway (Figure 1). FAC was subsequently retained to conduct a full excavation of the Hillerman Site (AjGv-51) found within the building envelope of the proposed subdivision (Figure 2) and this paper reports on that work.

BACKGROUND

The general area of the site is of varying topographic relief, with some bottomland around the edges of Cooksville Creek, and some sloped hills with flat-topped areas surrounding the narrow creek valley. The site itself is situated on a small flat plateau overlooking Cooksville Creek. The soil matrix is Fox Sand, that is stonefree and generally is four inches of brown sand or sandy loam underlain by well defined sand or sandy loam with the parent material being a calcareous grey sand (Hoffman & Richards 1953:map and chart).

The water sources in the general area of the site include from west to east: the Credit River, Mary Fix Creek, Cooksville Creek, Cawthra Creek, Applewood Creek, Little Etobicoke Creek and Etobicoke Creek. All of these drain southwards into Lake Ontario. The Credit River has the largest drainage shed with a drainage area of approximately 328 square miles (Chapman and Putnam 1984:102). The land is marshy for the last mile before the river enters Lake Ontario. The next largest water shed is the Etobicoke Creek, to the east of the site, and it only drains some 74 square miles (Chapman and Putnam 1984:103).

Registered Sites

The Ministry of Culture's site database indicated that there were only 10 registered sites within a two kilometre radius, which is not surprising considering the pre-1970s housing subdivisions that proliferate in this area.

The data in Table 1 show that most of the registered sites in the area are Native in origin. Only one is designated as Euro-Canadian; a cabin site located on the north shore of Lake Ontario. The nine Native sites are small in nature and have been labelled as campsites. Six of the nine Native sites are listed as undetermined affiliation. AjGv-1 is listed as being affiliated with two cultural groups — Laurentian Archaic and Middle Woodland. AjGv-5 is listed as aceramic, AjGv-6 is under the general category of aceramic, and AjGv-8 and AjGv-9 are categorized as being occupied by Laurentian Archaic peoples.

In general, this area was probably intensively occupied by Native peoples through time, and the paucity of sites reflected in the database is due to the early to mid-twentieth century extensive urban expansion and development.

Table 1: Registered Sites

Borden #	Site Name	Site Type	Description
AjGv-1	Hare	Native, campsite	Laurentian Archaic; Middle Woodland; on bank of Credit River
AjGv-2	Murphy	Native, campsite	Undetermined affiliation; area now developed
AjGv-5	Glenburny	Native, campsite	Aceramic; site all but eradicated due to Hurricane Hazel and development
AjGv-6	Geveny	Native, campsite	Archaic; Site now almost completely destroyed due to urban development
AjGv-8	Eley	Native, campsite	Laurentian Archaic; not completely disturbed
AjGv-9	Avonbridge	Native, campsite	Laurentian Archaic; on island in stream; now destroyed by urban development
AjGv-10	Stavebank	Native, campsite	undetermined affiliation; destroyed by urban development
AjGv-12	Pinewood Trail	Native, campsite	undetermined affiliation; destroyed by urban development
AjGv-17	Nunan	Native, campsite	undetermined affiliation; points found; destroyed by urban development
AjGv-39	Adamson Estate	Euro-Canadian; homestead	Euro-Canadian cabin foundation with associated wells/cisterns; flagstone paving; red brick walkway; depression and concrete fish pond

Site History

Curiously, it was the development of the area that ultimately preserved the site, as a Boys' club cabin had been built directly over the site sometime just prior to 1938. Vera Weeks, an early twentieth century resident of Lakeview recollects that the cabin was first built as a clubhouse by the boys of St. Paul's Parish, Lorne Park. She writes, "[Jack Barrett] ... formed a club for the young boys of the parish because there was not too much in our area for them to do. To have a club, they needed a clubhouse in which to hold their meetings and he proposed that they get permission to build their own log house, down in Hamilton's bushlot....to reach the bushlot, I had to take a shortcut through the apple orchard...(Weeks 1986:271)". The log cabin built as a boys' club appears to have been located directly over the Hillerman site. While the log cabin no longer exists, a series of pathways loop around the site area and former cabin. Thus, while other parts of the property had been disturbed by bull-dozing and material dumping from previous subdivision developments in the area, the land under and near the cabin had their original soil horizons preserved.

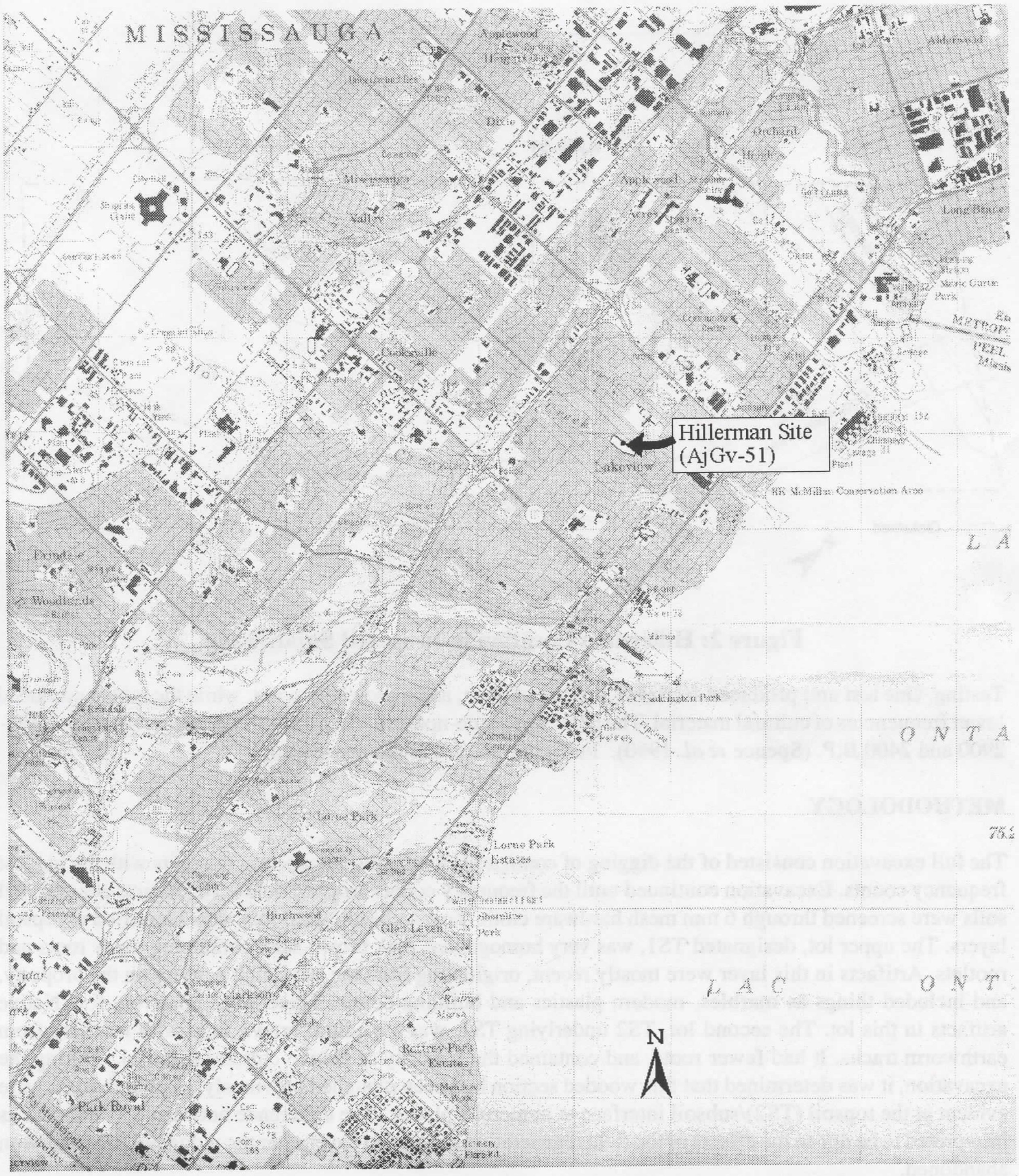

Figure 1: Hillerman Site (AjGv-51) Location & Topography

During shovel testing of the property, two positive shovel tests 10 metre apart were noted, each containing a piece of debitage. This cultural material was designated as a site and was recommended for Stage 3: Testing. Sixteen one metre squares were excavated on a grid pattern (5 metre interval) for the Stage 3:

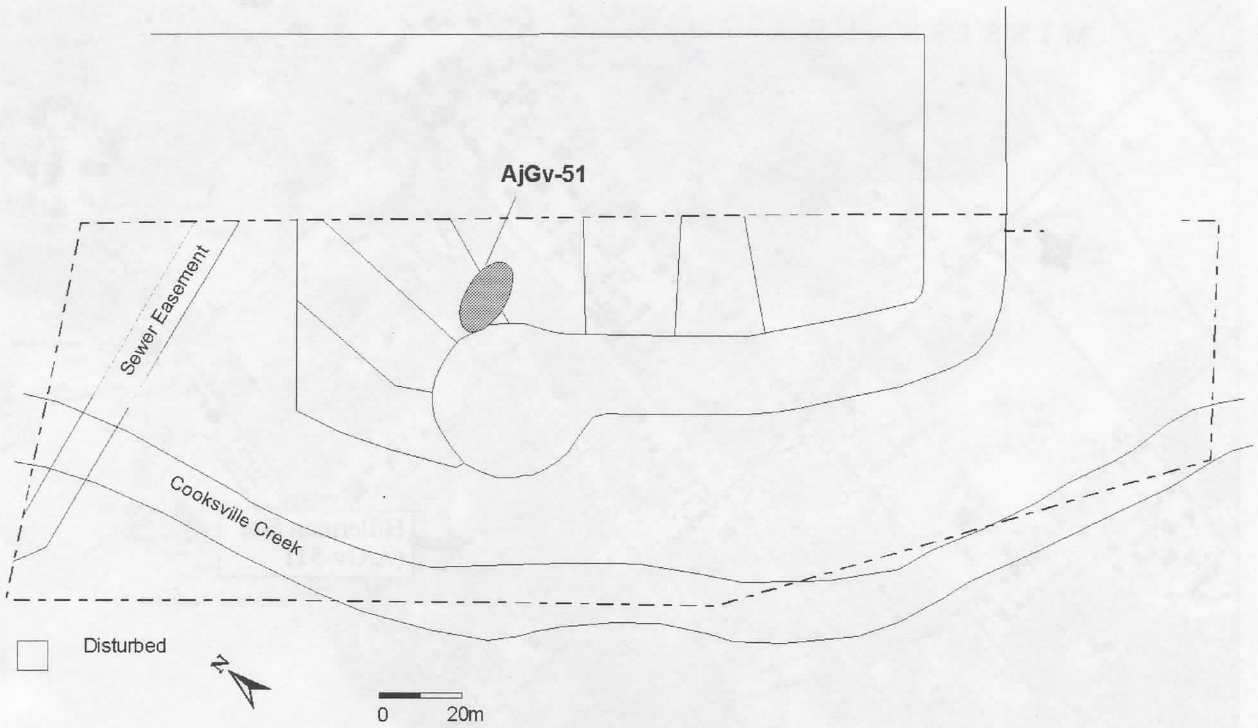

Figure 2: Hillerman Location in Proposed Subdivision.

Testing. One test unit produced 10 flakes, a piece of bone, and a projectile point, while the others produced lower frequencies of cultural material. The point was a side-notched Meadowood one, dating between 2800/-2900 and 2400 B.P. (Spence *et al.* 1990). Full excavation was recommended.

METHODOLOGY

The full excavation consisted of the digging of contiguous 1 m^2 units, connecting the units with the highest frequency counts. Excavation continued until the frequency counts dropped below 10 artifacts per unit. All soils were screened through 6 mm mesh hardware cloth. Two archaeological lots were identified as topsoil layers. The upper lot, designated TS1, was very homogenous dark brown sand containing many roots and rootlets. Artifacts in this layer were mostly recent, originating from the boys club activity on the property, and included things as marbles, modern plastics and building debris. There were relatively few Native artifacts in this lot. The second lot, TS2 underlying TS1, was a medium brown sand with mottling from earthworm tracks. It had fewer roots, and contained the majority of Native cultural material. During the excavation, it was determined that this wooded section had been ploughed previously, as plough scars were evident at the topsoil (TS2)/subsoil interface at numerous places. The difference between TS1 and TS2 is interpreted to be due to the effects of the field regeneration to wooded cover after the ploughed field had been abandoned.

The subsoil surface was cleaned and examined for subsoil features. The first 2 cm of subsoil was then excavated to ensure that no ghost features were present. If a substantial number of artifacts was recovered from subsoil, the floor of the square was trowel excavated to search for such features. Three areas were examined as potential features, described below. Soil samples were taken from any features considered to be valid.

Table 2: Hillerman Artifact Summary

Artifact Type	Artifact Subtype	Freq
Debitage	All categories	665
Biface	Fragment	4
Biface	Preform	1
Biface	Drill (2 pieces)	1
Biface	Projectile Point	9
Biface	Projectile Point/Knife	1
	Core	2
Bipolar	Pièce Esquillée	1
Uniface	Utilized Flake	1
Faunal	non-burnt & calcined	476
Floral	F3	sample
Euro-Canadian	All Categories	86

RESULTS

The Hillerman site was extremely small, totaling 66 m^2 for both the Stage 3 and 4 work. However, the site is significant albeit small.

A total of 945 Native artifacts was recovered including 20 tools and a core, plus 665 pieces of debitage, and 476 small fragments of bone and calcined bone (Table 2). A number of the projectile points are diagnostic. One, found during Stage 3, is a Meadowood side notched point, and the others are Small Point, identified as a Crawford Knoll type. Most of the debitage is Onondaga, except for small amounts of exotic cherts found in squares in the southeast corner of the site.

Euro-Canadian Analysis

The Euro-Canadian assemblage is in keeping with the information gained from the historic research, in that there is nothing to indicate an early date for the assemblage and its make-up is consistent with an intermittent, non-permanent type settlement (*i.e.* a boys' club). Table 3 breaks down the Euro-Canadian assemblage. The frequency of toys and in particular the marbles, fits nicely with the supposition of the boys' club. The plastic drinking glasses, the buttons, and bottles indicate a picnic-like setting, and there is nothing to indicate a truly domestic structure.

The faunal material that is not considered to be associated with the Native occupation is mostly related to domestic animals. The location of these bones is mostly in the southwestern part of the site, and consists of sawn cow bone, pig vertebra, horse skull fragments, horse teeth, and part of a bear skull. The bear skull fragment is considered to be from the historic time frame due to its general condition and it was not burnt as were the other bones present on site.

Features

Three areas were investigated as possible features (Figure 3). One was identified at the time of excavation as a large tree root burn (F1) that had incorporated a number of flakes and bone fragments into the subsoil. However, it is now believed to have been a hearth. The edges were not well defined due to the amount of tree roots in the immediate area that obscured the plan outline. Only one piece of debitage and the utilized flake came directly from the feature, the rest of the material was faunal, totalling 111 pieces of unidentifiable calcined bone, two pieces of turtle carapace, and seven calcined deer bone fragments. This feature is

Table 3: The Euro-Canadian Assemblage

Artifact Type	Frequency	Description
Toys	8	7 marbles, 1 truck wheel
Clothing	2	buttons
Medicine	4	bottle(s)
Bottle	7	
Bottle Cap	2	pop and/or beer
Ceramics	42	21 from one green rimmed plate
Construction	5	4 cut nails, 1 wire nail
Glass	2	
Heat	1	lamp chimney fragment
Plastic	12	drinking vessels, others
TOTAL	86	

considered cultural in origin due to the high frequency of calcined bone and the distribution pattern of the tools around it. Unfortunately, there has been some disturbance due to root action and some ploughing.

The second feature was an enigmatic shallow round basin containing a greyish topsoil. It probably did not relate to the Native occupation of the site although it did contain three pieces of debitage. The feature was mapped, photographed, sectioned and profiled. One half of this feature was saved for flotation and later analysis. The floatation sample from F2 resulted in the recovery of one trimming flake, and a small sample of carbonized floral remains. In total, Feature 2 contained three trimming flakes and one thinning flake. It is more than likely not a cultural feature.

The third feature was a "ghost" feature with no discernable soil coloration, and contained only a cluster of artifacts in the subsoil. This area was excavated and all artifact locations were piece plotted. However, it had very few artifacts compared to examples of ghost features that the crew has encountered on other sites in Ontario. The "ghost" feature is probably of a cultural origin and contained 28 pieces of debitage, two calcined deer bone fragments, one unidentifiable calcined bone fragment, and one projectile point fragment.

Debitage Analysis

In total, there were 665 pieces of debitage recovered from the Hillerman site (Figure 3). As is typical with lithic sites, most of the debitage is not analyzable consisting of fragments without platforms, or shatter that do not have any flake characteristics. The breakdown of the site's debitage is presented below in Table 4.

From the table, the breakdown of the debitage indicates that the Native inhabitants were predominantly refining bifaces - either thinning down preforms or reworking bifaces. The analyzable thinning category is just over 67% of the sample, indicating that this type of work was the focus of the lithic manufacturing process.

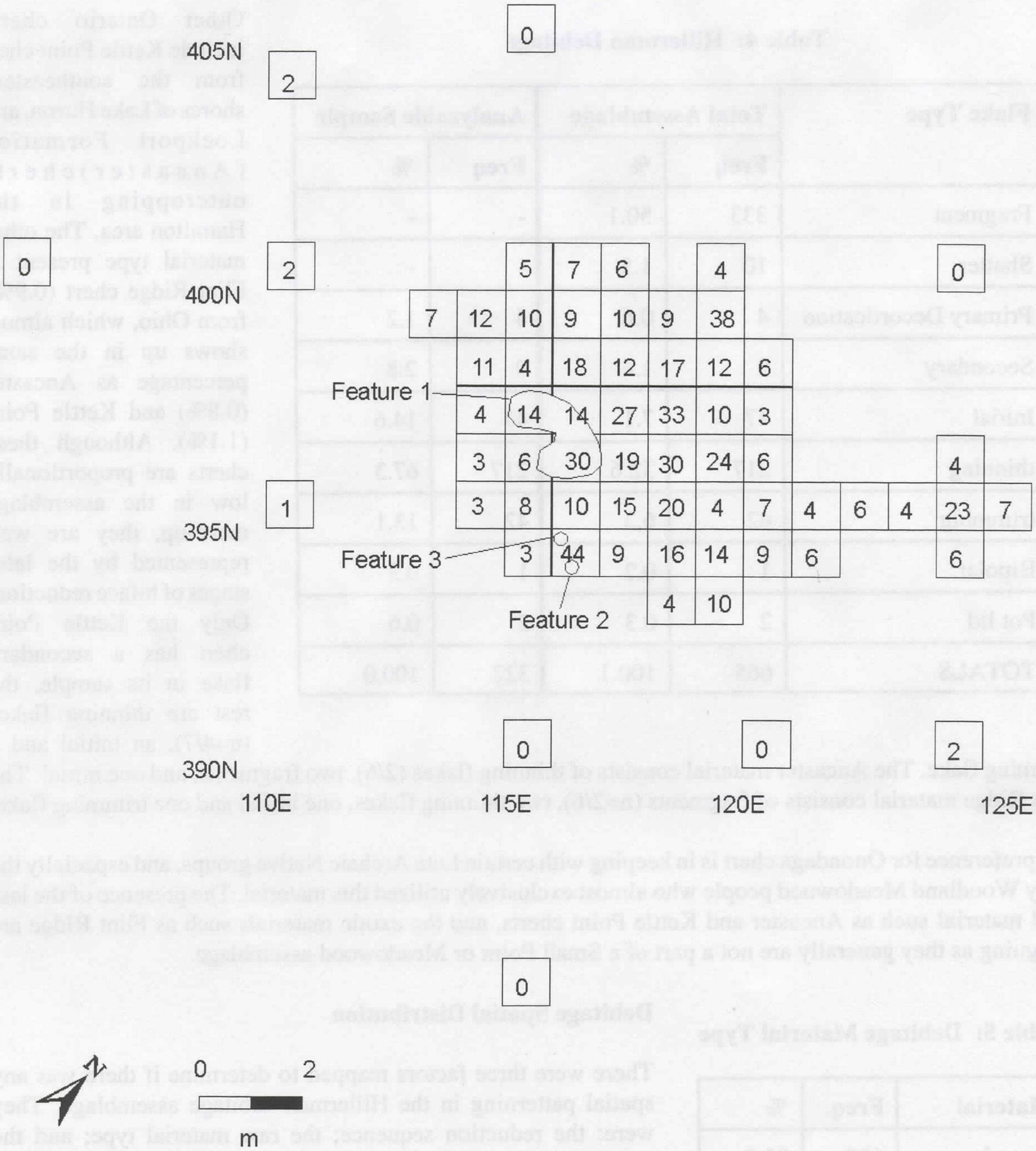

Figure 3: Debitage Distribution, Hillerman Site.

Debitage Raw Material Type

There were five types of raw lithic material recognized on site. Table 5 indicates that by far the predominant lithic material present on the Hillerman site is Onondaga chert, making up almost 96% of the assemblage.

Table 4: Hillerman Debitage

Flake Type	Total Assemblage		Analyzable Sample	
	Freq	%	Freq	%
Fragment	333	50.1	-	-
Shatter	10	1.5	-	-
Primary Decortication	4	0.6	4	1.2
Secondary	9	1.4	9	2.8
Initial	47	7.1	47	14.6
thinning	217	32.6	217	67.3
trimming	42	6.3	42	13.1
Bipolar	1	0.2	1	0.3
Pot lid	2	0.3	2	0.6
TOTALS	665	100.1	322	100.0

Other Ontario cherts include Kettle Point chert from the southeastern shores of Lake Huron, and Lockport Formation (Ancaster) chert, outcropping in the Hamilton area. The other material type present is Flint Ridge chert (0.9%) from Ohio, which almost shows up in the same percentage as Ancaster (0.8%) and Kettle Point (1.1%). Although these cherts are proportionally low in the assemblage make-up, they are well represented by the later stages of biface reduction. Only the Kettle Point chert has a secondary flake in its sample, the rest are thinning flakes (n=4/7), an initial and a trimming flake. The Ancaster material consists of thinning flakes (2/6), two fragments, and one initial. The Flint Ridge material consists of fragments (n=2/6), two thinning flakes, one initial and one trimming flake.

The preference for Onondaga chert is in keeping with certain Late Archaic Native groups, and especially the Early Woodland Meadowood people who almost exclusively utilized this material. The presence of the less local material such as Ancaster and Kettle Point cherts, and the exotic materials such as Flint Ridge are intriguing as they generally are not a part of a Small Point or Meadowood assemblage.

Table 5: Debitage Material Type

Material	Freq.	%
Onondaga	637	95.8
Ancaster	5	0.8
Flint Ridge	6	0.9
Kettle Point	7	1.1
Unknown	10	1.5

Debitage Spatial Distribution

There were three factors mapped to determine if there was any spatial patterning in the Hillerman debitage assemblage. They were: the reduction sequence; the raw material type; and the exposure to heat. No statistical analyses were carried out, but the various categories of debitage (*i.e.* thinning) were mapped and then compared to the overall distribution of the debitage assemblage. This procedure was carried out for all the different types of analyzable flake categories. From this mapping, it was determined that most of the primary and secondary flakes were distributed immediately east of Feature 1, and most of the trimming flakes were distributed to the south of Feature 1. This clustering of the trimming flakes is probably not an accurate representation, but rather one that reflects sampling strategy. The unit containing a large number of the trimming flakes, 116E394N, contained two suspected features (F2 & F3). These areas were intensively troweled and all material was piece-plotted. Therefore, the smaller trimming flakes would have been recovered at a greater frequency than the rest of the units, and would skew their distribution pattern. The rest of the different categories were distributed evenly across the site with no apparent clustering.

Unlike the reduction sequence mapping, the mapping of debitage by material type did produce some clustering (Figure 4). Almost all of the unusual raw material types are clustered in the southeastern corner of the site. All the Kettle Point is clustered around 124E395N, and all but one of the Flint Ridge material is around that same unit. The only anomaly to this pattern is that of Ancaster chert, where there are four of the five pieces of Ancaster in the extreme northwest corner of the site in unit 115E400N. This clustering of the different raw material types may indicate an occupation different to the main part of the site, but it equally may reflect a specialized functional area of the Late Archaic/Early Woodland area.

The third criterion to be considered for debitage mapping was the distribution of those flakes exposed to heat. Since the frequencies of most of the lithic raw materials was low, only Onondaga chert was mapped in regard to exposure to heat. Onondaga was chosen due to its frequency, and that overall it was approximately equally split between being exposed to heat and not being exposed. If Feature 1 (discussed below) was a hearth, then there may be a clustering of heat exposed material around that feature. The percentage of Onondaga chert exposed to heat to the overall frequency of Onondaga per unit was mapped (*i.e.* N=9exposed/14 overall frequency = 64% exposed). The results indicate that there was no spatial clustering around Feature 1 (or the other two features), and that the distribution of the heat exposed Onondaga was variable, but generally reflected the overall 50/50 split across the site.

Tool Analysis

There was a small number of tools recovered from the site excavation, but fairly high when taken into consideration of the frequency of debitage recovered. In total, there were 19 tools and one core recovered. Table 2 above provides a breakdown of the tool assemblage.

Projectile Points

Table 6 provides the type and metrics of the points recovered. Out of the nine projectile points present, one is complete, one is a tip, and the remaining seven are bases or base fragments. All are made from Onondaga chert, and five have been exposed to heat. The large number of projectile point bases would seem to indicate that the site's hunters were returning to camp with spent shafts and broken points. While at camp they removed the broken points from the shafts, discarded the remaining bases and refurbished their hunting kit, probably while being around the hearth.

Most of the projectile point bases (117E397N; 116E395N; 115E400N; 116E394NF3; 114E397N; and 118E397; see Figure 5: 5-7, 10, 13, 14) would appear to be from the same style of projectile point, that of a stemmed type, the Innes Point. Innes Points date from the Small Point, Late Archaic,and the Innes site yielded a C-14 date of 3350 +/- 195 B.P. (Lennox 1986). The other basal fragment (118E396N) may be a Small Point as well, but it is far too fragmentary to be certain.

The one complete point (Figure 5: 4), is a Meadowood side-notched point, which, as noted above, are dated elsewhere between 2800-2900 and 2400 B.P. (Spence *et al.* 1990).

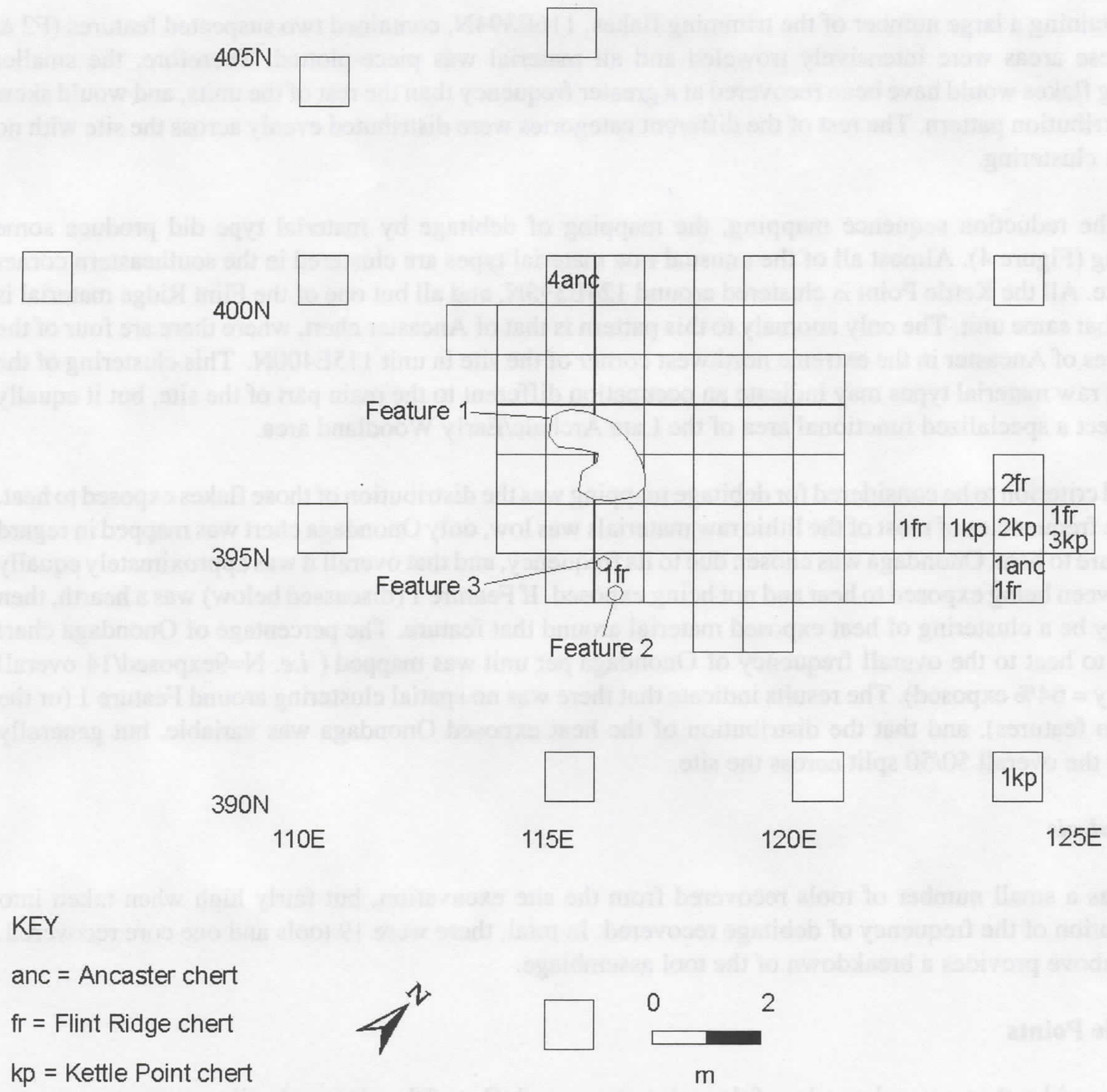

Figure 4: Distribution of Non-Onondaga Debitage.

Bifaces

There are seven biface or biface fragments that were recovered from the excavations. All bifaces are made from Onondaga chert. One biface (Figure 5: 3) is a small, elongated tear-drop shaped preform (116E395N), measuring 47.5 mm long, 25.4 mm wide, and 7.3 mm thick. This item was the only preform found on site.

There was also only one drill found (Figure 5: 8-9). The drill was found in two different units, having been snapped laterally. The tip was found in 119E396N TS2, and the base was two metres to the south in 119E394N TS2. The drill is 50.2 mm long, 10.5 mm wide, and 4.6 mm wide. Both pieces have been exposed to heat.

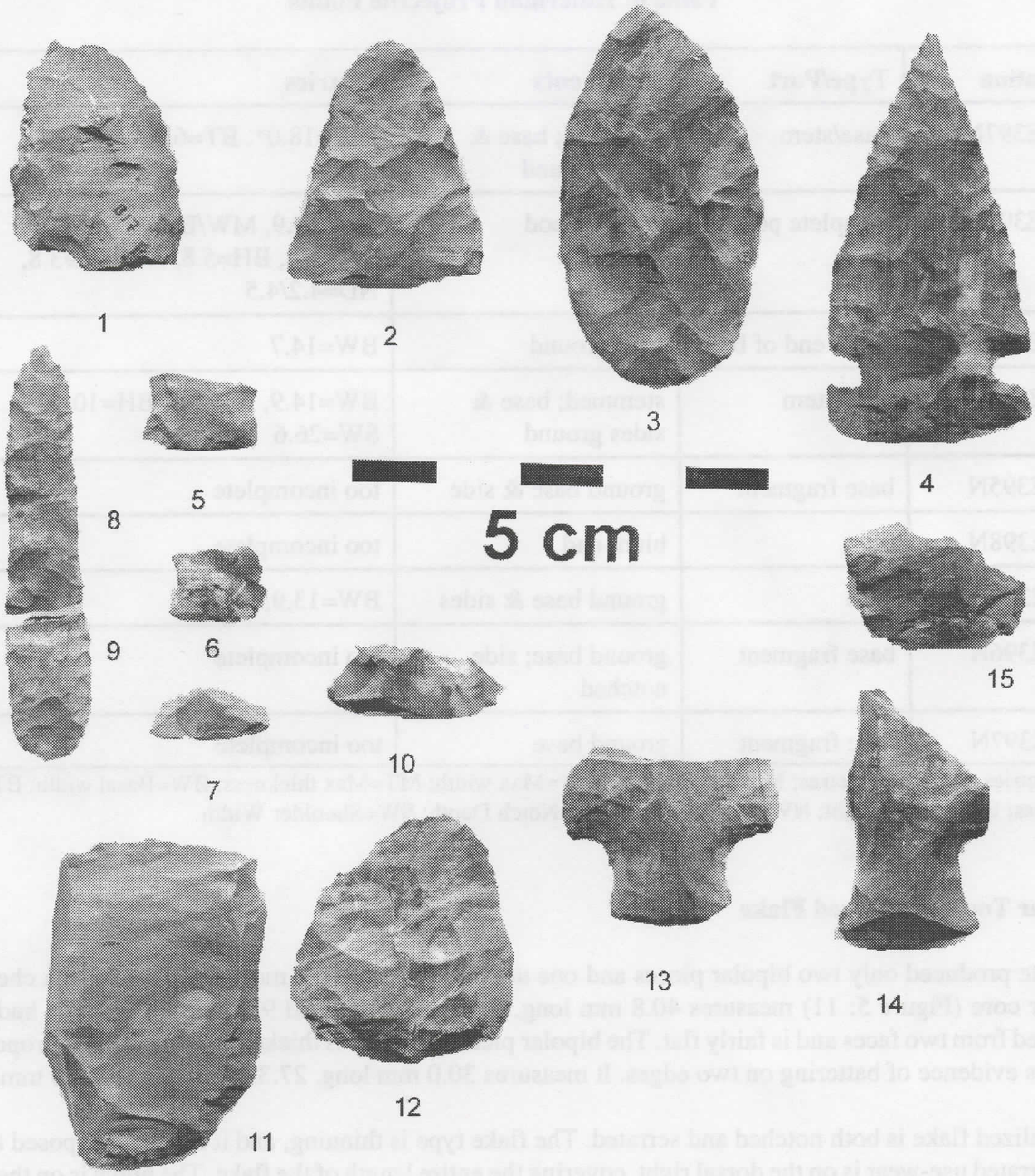

Figure 5: Stone Artifacts, Hillerman Site.
1: Biface Fragment; 2: Preform Tip; 3) Preform; 4) Meadowood Point; 5-7) Point Bases; 8) Drill Tip; 9) Drill Base (matching); 10) Biface Fragment; 11) Bipolar Piece; 12) Point Fragment; 13) Point Base and Shank; 14) Point Base; 15) Biface Fragment.

The five remaining bifaces are fragments. One (Figure 5: 2) is a tip that may be a round tipped projectile point (123E395N). One may be a knife or part of a projectile point, but it has been quite exposed to heat and therefore its purpose is unknown (117E398N). A small biface fragment was also found in unit 117E398N.However, it is too small to determine its function. The last two biface fragments (117E399N and 119E397N) show signs of having been worked bifacially, but are also too small to determine their function.

Table 6: Hillerman Projectile Points

Location	Type/Part	Comments	Metrics
114E397N	base/stem	stemmed; base & sides ground	BW=18.0*, BT=6.0, BH=12.1
115E399N	complete point	Meadowood	ML=49.9, MW/BW=25.0, MT=5.8, BH=5.8, NW=3.6/3.8, ND=4.2/4.5
115E400N	distal end of base	base ground	BW=14.7
116E394N F3	base/stem	stemmed; base & sides ground	BW=14.9, BT=4.6, BH=10.4, SW=26.6
116E395N	base fragment	ground base & side	too incomplete
116E398N	tip	blunt end	too incomplete
117E397N	base	ground base & sides	BW=13.9, BT=4.6
118E396N	base fragment	ground base; side notched	too incomplete
118E397N	base fragment	ground base	too incomplete

*All metrics are in millimetres; ML=Max length; MW=Max width; MT=Max thickness; BW=Basal width; BT=Basal thickness; BH=Basal height; NW=Notch Width; ND=Notch Depth; SW=Shoulder Width

Bipolar Tools & Utilized Flake

The site produced only two bipolar pieces and one utilized flake; all are made from Onondaga chert. The bipolar core (Figure 5: 11) measures 40.8 mm long, 27.9 mm wide, and 9.7 mm thick. It has had flakes removed from two faces and is fairly flat. The bipolar pièce esquillée is thicker in relation to its proportions, and has evidence of battering on two edges. It measures 30.0 mm long, 27.3 mm wide, and 9.0 mm thick.

The utilized flake is both notched and serrated. The flake type is thinning, and it has been exposed to heat. The serrated use-wear is on the dorsal right, covering the entire length of the flake. The notch is on the dorsal left, along the central part of the flake.

Tool Spatial Distribution

The tools seem to be clustered around the burnt stain identified as Feature 1. All of the projectile point fragments assigned to the Small Point occupation are clustered around this feature (Figure 6). Only one biface tip is not centred around the feature, located at 123E395N. However, that being stated, it should also be noted that the whole of the site is small, and it would be difficult for the tools not to be viewed as clustering around the feature. What is noticeable is that there were no formal tools found within the four units containing the feature, but were all outside of its boundaries. This distribution could have been due to the feature actually being a hearth, and the Native occupants were working and cooking (the presence of all the calcined bone fragments) around this feature. The feature could equally have been a later burning episode of a tree, where the artifacts were simply displaced by the presence of the tree.

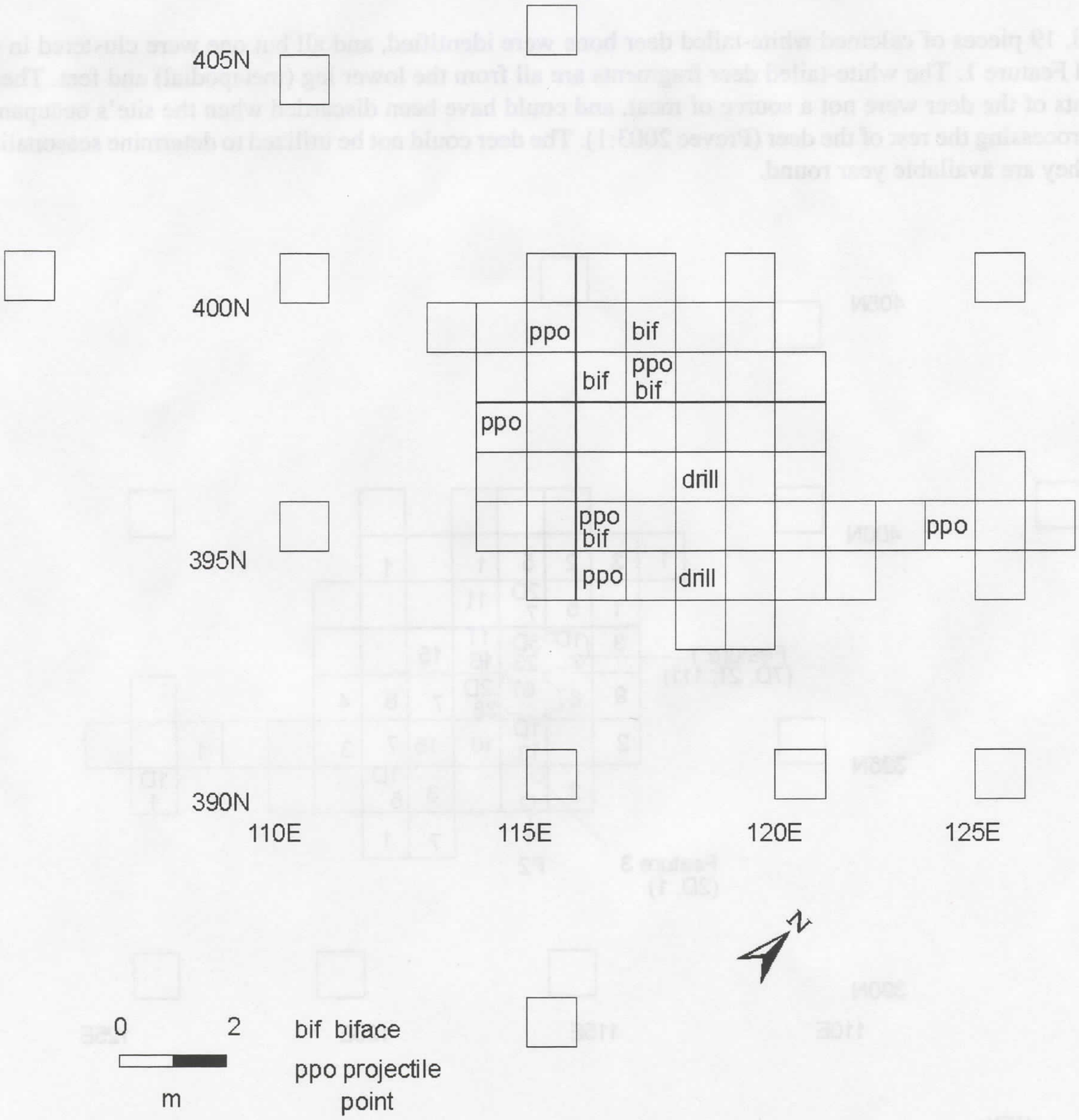

Figure 6: Artifact Distribution, Hillerman Site.

Faunal Analysis & Distribution

In total, there were 476 pieces of bone and bone fragments excavated from the Hillerman Site (Figure 7). Most are calcined bone and are clustered in the topsoil above Feature 1 and within this feature/burn. The bone is very small and fragmented and most was not identifiable. However, the pieces that were identifiable consisted of deer and turtle. The turtle consisted of three pieces of carapace (two were within Feature 1, with the third just to the north in the topsoil). It has been identified as possibly being painted turtle. Turtles would have been abroad during the warm weather seasons, but would have been more easily caught in the spring when they come onto land to lay eggs (Prevec 2002:2). The presence of turtle would indicate a warm weather occupation, maybe in the spring.

In total, 19 pieces of calcined white-tailed deer bone were identified, and all but one were clustered in or around Feature 1. The white-tailed deer fragments are all from the lower leg (metapodial) and feet. These elements of the deer were not a source of meat, and could have been discarded when the site's occupants were processing the rest of the deer (Prevec 2003:1). The deer could not be utilized to determine seasonality since they are available year round.

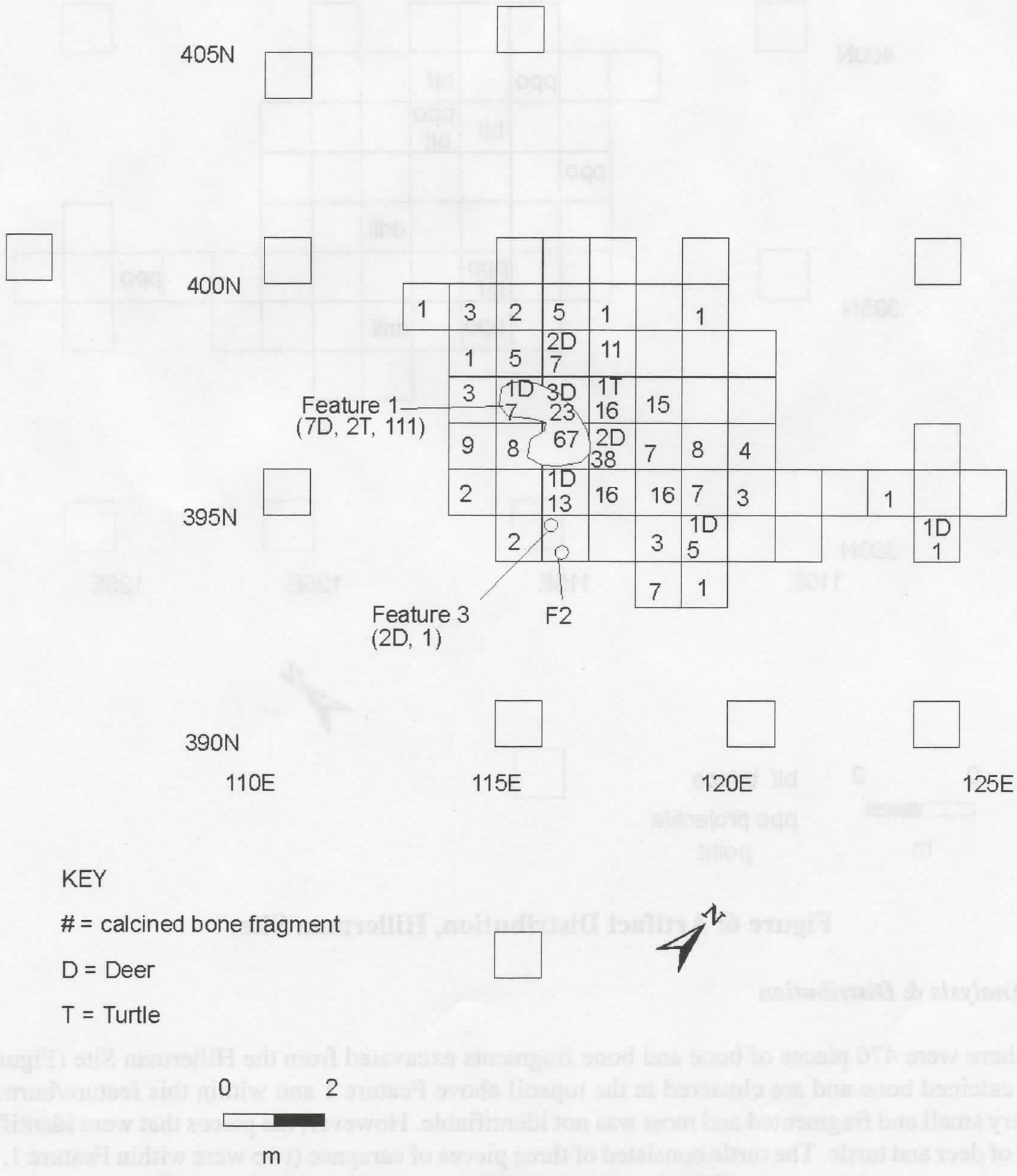

Figure 7: Distribution of Calcined Bone, Hillerman Site.

LATE ARCHAIC DISCUSSION

The site's function is that of a special task site, namely a hunting camp. The main form of tool present is the projectile point base. Seven of the nine projectile points are simply the basal ends of the points. As stated earlier, this would indicate that the hunters had returned to site with broken equipment. After the hunt, they had gathered up their spent weapons, and set up camp where they were processing deer and turtle. There they removed the broken points from their bindings, and refurbished them with new weapons. Hence the amount of discarded bases all of the same Small Point variety, in the general vicinity of the supposed hearth. The amount of thinning flakes on site would indicate that once the broken projectile points had been removed from their shafts, new ones were thinned and finished. The biface fragments and the preform show that the later stages of biface manufacture were being carried out.

The bone fragments suggest that deer and turtle were processed for food purposes, but the total amount of bone that has been recovered is very small. The presence of the burnt turtle would indicate a warm weather occupation site. The lack of scrapers, adzes, axes, bone tools, decorative artifacts, and post moulds also would indicate a small, ephemeral specialized campsite. All of this positive and negative data indicate that this area was primarily a Native tool finishing and refurbishing area, occupied during the spring/summer.

The two diagnostic artifact types present on site are one complete Meadowood projectile point from the Early Woodland, and an Innes projectile point from the Late Archaic. The bases of seven of the projectile points also fall within the range and style of the Innes point. The dominance of the Small Points in the central area around the hearth, and the Meadowood point on the periphery of the site indicate the primary time frame of site use was during the Late Archaic.

Small Points are present in the archaeological record from around *ca.* 3500 to 2500 B.P. (Ellis *et al.* 1990:106-107). Small Point distribution is mostly recognized in southwestern Ontario and into the adjacent Midwestern United States. Midwestern Small Point sites include the Michigan sites of Weber I and II (Lovis 1989) and Butterfield (Wobst 1968), and the Illinois Riverton complex (Winters 1969). In Ontario, early research focussed on material in the Canadian Biotic zone, along the Huron shoreline, such as work in the vicinity of Kincardine (T. E. Lee 1952), and further north along that shore at sites such as Rocky Ridge, Inverhuron, and Knechtel I (Ramsden 1976; Wright 1972). Sites in southwestern Ontario, in the Carolinian Biotic zone (i.e. Crawford Knoll) were also present along lakeshore and marshland environments. Recent studies have focused on lithic procurement strategies (Ellis & Spence 1997). Raw material source studies at small interior campsites such as Thistle Hill (Woodley 1990), Innes (Lennox 1986) and Thedford II (Ellis *et al.* 1990) has allowed models of how those sites were incorporated into the overall lithic gathering strategies of the Small Point Native peoples (Ellis & Spence 1997).

The Small Point Archaic is characterized by four major variety of point forms. They are Crawford Knoll (Kenyon 1989), Innes (Lennox 1986), Hind (Lovis and Robertson 1989; Spence and Fox 1986), and Ace-of-Spades (Lovis and Robertson 1989). Crawford Knoll points have been suggested to date early in the Late Archaic Small Point tradition (Kenyon 1989), while Hind points share numerous characteristics with Early Woodland Meadowood points and presumably date later (Spence and Fox 1986).

The settlement-subsistence pattern for Small Point Archaic people has been postulated to consist of two components -- a littoral/inland, summer/winter dichotomy. Littoral sites which are in rich environments, permit the exploitation of many different food resources, and represent multi-season occupations, inhabited anytime from the spring into the fall (Ellis *et al.* 1990:114). Inland or upland sites are postulated as fall or winter camps that focused on deer hunting, hide preparation and nut gathering (Ellis *et al.* 1990:114).

However, Woodley (1990:47) indicates that Thistle Hill could be a warm season base camp, going against the traditional interpretation that inland sites are fall/winter camps (but see Ellis and Spence 1997:129-130). Wilson (2002:12) indicates that interior sites have been noted to contain high percentages of projectile points and scrapers, presumably associated with hunting and hide-working respectively, while lacking fishing apparatus and groundstone. Yet, Martelle (2001) has documented an interior Small Point site with a high proportion of groundstone and a lack of scraping tools.

Hillerman has a high proportion of projectile point fragments, and lacks groundstone, fishing apparatus and scraping tools and as such represents a kind of assemblage not previously reported. Hillerman is similar to Thistle Hill in that it probably is a warm weather interior occupation. Hillerman is too small to have been a base camp, but was a special task site. Thus, the littoral-summer and inland-winter dichotomy may be too simplistic to explain complex social and foraging strategies in the Late Archaic. The data are too scarce currently to start proposing a new model but the discovery and documentation of sites such as Hillerman will start to provide a basis for future work.

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A THEBES POINT FROM MERSEA TOWNSHIP, ESSEX COUNTY

by Bill Allen and Chris Ellis

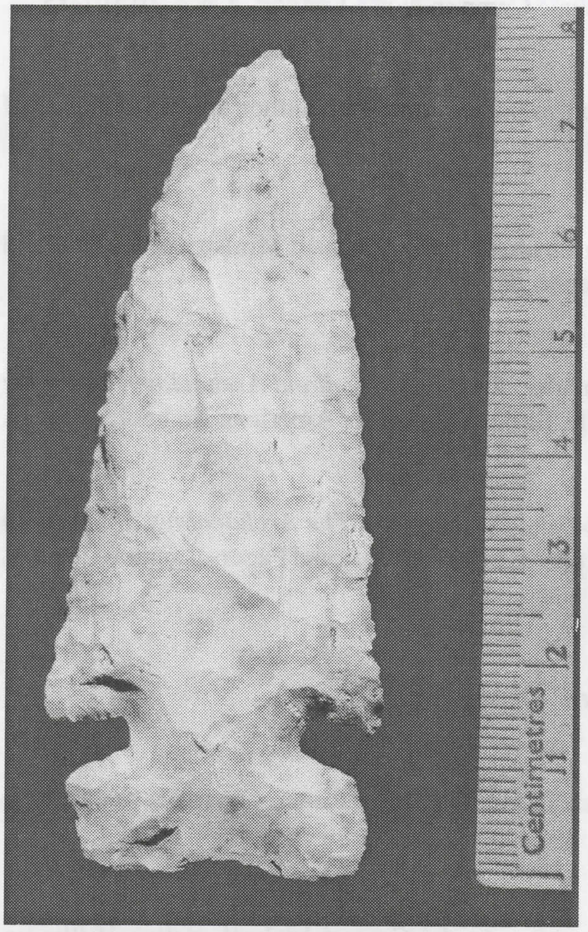

Figure 1: Mersea Thebes Point.

We provide here a description of a Thebes type point (Figure 1) from Mersea Township, Essex County. Thebes points have been described in the *KEWA* point type series by Abel (1990) but as he noted, they are relatively rare in Ontario. In fact, Ellis has probably seen fewer than five in over 25 years of examining collections and this specimen was Allen's first field experience with one. There are even fewer published references to actual Ontario examples. Hence this brief note.

It is perhaps not surprising that the Mersea point is from southwesternmost Ontario as Thebes points are more of a Midwestern type, being frequently reported in the southern Illinois, Indiana and Ohio area. In fact, the Thebes point or the "Thebes type cluster" were first named by Howard Winters (1963) based on his research in the lower Wabash River valley of southern Illinois. He argued that stratigraphic data from several sites in the area indicated they were of Early Archaic age. In recent years there have been some extensive excavations which have confirmed his inferences and also provided radiocarbon dates. Most notable is the work of Morrow (1996) at the Twin Ditch site in Illinois which has several ^{14}C dates indicating an age between ca. 9500 and 9000 B.P. There clearly are no dated finds in Ontario and the only direct evidence we have for their age in this area is the recovery of a probable heavily resharpened example from the Pascoe site near Lake Huron (Ellis and Deller 1986:56 & Figure 10d) which had been waterworn and iron-stained by being immersed in the rising oxygen rich waters of the high water Nipissing Phase in that lake basin. This staining however, only indicates that particular find is of Nipissing age or older or >4500 years old and it is obviously much older.

The Mersea point was found many years ago by a local landowner and was uncovered, examined, measured and photographed by Allen during a recent reconnaissance of ridge top trail systems of the area. The point is made on an unidentified white material which may be Ten Mile Creek chert found just to the west of Lake Erie near the Michigan-Ohio border. It conforms almost exactly to published descriptions of the type. Most measurements fall within the ranges reported by Abel (1990; see Table 1), presumably based on an Ohio sample, although the point is somewhat long. However, at least point length is drastically affected by resharpening and Thebes points as long or longer than the Meresea point are frequently reported elsewhere (see, for example, Luchterhand 1970:26). In terms of other characteristics, the Mersea point has: ground notches and base; somewhat elongated notches with parallel margins which although often side-notched, run diagonally; relatively rounded apexes of the stem tangs below the notches; and a slight nick or concavity to the centre of the base probably produced during the removal of short basal thinning flakes. It also is notable in that it has a steep alternate edge bevel produced by unifacial resharpening of the lateral fore-section margins. The point was positioned in direct sunlight to highlight the prominent beveled edge which is on the left side when viewed with the tip to the top (Figure 2). Such resharpening has led to suggestions that these tools were largely used as knives rather than as projectile tips. The fore-section also has an irregular somewhat serrated edge. In all of these characteristics, including the positioning of the bevel on the left margin, it is identical to Thebes type descriptions (see Abel 1990; Justice 1997:54-57).

Table 1: Comparison of Mersea Point to Published Thebes Variables.

Variable	Range*	Mean*	Mersea Point
Length	40-64	52	79
Width	24-40	32	30.5
Thickness	5-13	9	8
Notch/Neck Width	15-21	18	17
Basal Width	25-35	30	27

*measurements for comparative sample taken from Abel (1990); all are in mm.

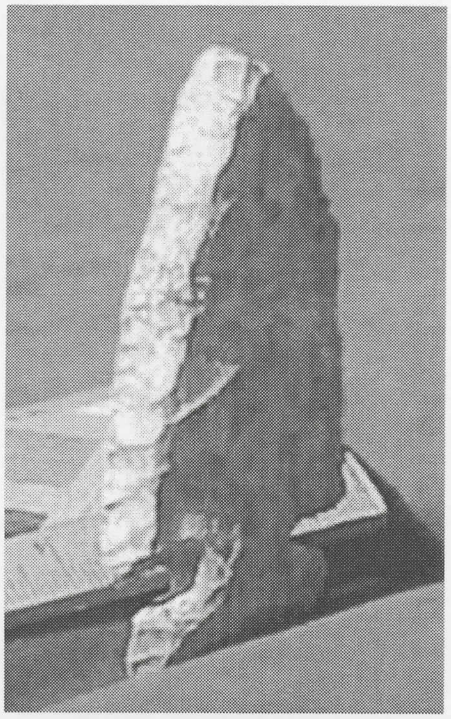

Figure 2: Beveled edge.

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